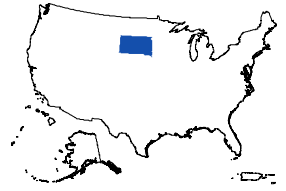


2000 Forestry Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

“The tree thinning that was done under our FIP (Forestry Incentives Program) plan provided a comfort factor for us because we were able to get our land cleaned up and improve the health of our forest land at the same time,” says Larry Wehrkamp, a landowner near Spearfish, South Dakota. The thinning is allowing the growth of forbs, shrubs, and grasses that helps reduce water erosion and improve water quality. The vegetative cover also helps improve soil quality by increasing organic matter and tilth and neutralizing soil acidity. Plant diversity of the forest understory enhances wildlife habitat. Carrying out the Forestry Incentives Program is a partnership effort with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. Larry says, “We feel good about what we’ve done. Now we have better wildlife habitat and we’ve reduced the fuel for potential fires at the same time.”

South Dakota Summary

Overview

South Dakota has five counties located in the area of the Black Hills National Forest that are eligible for the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP). Thirteen landowners applied for the limited funding available in South Dakota. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), working with staff foresters of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, assisted landowners develop seven contracts, which obligated \$11,808 of federal cost-share assistance.

Accomplishments

In South Dakota, 2000 was an active year for FIP. Six landowners participated in the program, completing pre-commercial thinning on 92 acres to improve overcrowded timber stands for increased wood production and other forest benefits.

Outlook

Timber stand improvement is critically needed in many areas of the Black Hills. Overcrowded stands can contribute to increased wildlife hazard, insect infestations, less use by wildlife, and loss of potential timber production. Additional funding would ensure continued timber production, ease the overall demand on public forest land, and provide needed financial incentives to landowners so they can invest now for increased gains in the future.

State Contact

Gregory Yapp, Resource Conservationist, 605-352-1238



*Larry and Janine
Wehrkamp,
Lawrence County,
South Dakota*

South Dakota Congressional District



South Dakota FIP Dollars and Contracts

Congressional District	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$11,808	7	\$71,255	45
State Totals	\$11,808	7	\$71,255	45

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